reducing a data rate at which packets destined for the destination are output from the second switching point in response to receiving the message.

5. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

managing a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs) at each switching point, each SLA having a corresponding minimum data rate; and

transmitting data packets corresponding to each SLA at or above the minimum data rate in accordance with the respective SLA;

wherein reducing a data rate at which packets destined for the destination are output from the second switching point in response to receiving the message comprises adjusting the data rate for packets corresponding to an SLA to reduce the congestion.

6. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein adjusting the data rate for packets corresponding to the SLA to reduce the congestion includes reducing the data rate to the minimum data rate for the SLA.

7. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein adjusting the data rate for packets corresponding to the SLA to reduce the congestion includes reducing the data rate below the minimum data rate.

8. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein managing SLAs at each switching point comprises separating the data packets into different queues corresponding to each different SLA.

9. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-accessible medium that includes content that when accessed provides instructions to cause a machine to:

receive a message from a first switching point at a second switching point to indicate that traffic between a source and a destination is congested; and

reduce a data rate at which packets destined for the destination are output from the second switching point in response to receiving the message.

10. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 9 further comprising the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to:

manage a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs), each SLA having a corresponding minimum data rate; and

transmit data packets corresponding to each SLA at or above the minimum data rate in accordance with the respective SLA;

wherein the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to reduce a data rate at which packets destined for the destination are output from the second switching point in response to receiving the message comprises the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to adjust the data rate for packets corresponding to an SLA to reduce the congestion.

11. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to adjust the data rate for an SLA to reduce the congestion includes the content providing instructions to cause the machine to reduce the data rate to the minimum data rate for the SLA.

12. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to adjust the data rate for an SLA to reduce the congestion includes the content providing instructions to cause the machine to reduce the data rate below the minimum data rate for the SLA.

13. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the content to provide instructions to cause the machine to manage SLAs comprises the content providing instructions to cause the machine to separate the data packets into different queues corresponding to each different SLA.

14. (New) A method of controlling congestion among a plurality of switching points, comprising:

managing a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs) specifying a minimum data rate of transmission for packets corresponding to each SLA, at each switching point;

sending a message from a downstream switching point to an upstream switching point to cause the upstream switching point to reduce a data rate at which packets associated with a specific SLA are output from the upstream switching point to a device downstream from the downstream switching point; and

sending a message from the downstream switching point to the upstream switching point to cause the upstream switching point to increase the data rate at which packets associated with the specific SLA are output from the upstream switching point to the device downstream from the downstream switching point.

15. (New) A system comprising:

a first switching device to send a message to indicate that traffic between a source and a destination is congested; and

a second switching device coupled with the first switching device to receive the message, and reduce a data rate at which packets destined for the destination are output from the second switching device in response to the message.